

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00796 091251Z  
ACTION EUR-12

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UNCLAS DUBLIN 00796

E.O. 11652: N/A  
SUBJECT: EDITORIAL IN IRISH INDEPENDENT MARCH  
9, 1978

FOLLOWING EDITORIAL APPEARED IN IRISH INDEPENDENT  
MARCH 9, 1978 UNDER HEADING STATE MERCENARIES:

OF THE MANY THINGS WHICH COULD BE SAID ABOUT THE  
WAR BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA ONE PARTICULARLY  
CRIES OUT FOR AN EXPLANATION. THAT IS THE  
PRESENCE ON THE ETHIOPIAN SIDE OF THOUSANDS OF  
CUBANS AND MANY RUSSIANS WHO, BETWEEN THEM, ARE,  
IT SEEMS, DRIVING THE SOMALIS BACK OUT OF DIS-  
PUTED TERRITORY.

IF, INSTEAD OF CUBANS AND RUSSIANS, ONE WERE  
TO SAY AMERICANS AND BRITISH THEN THE STREETS  
OF THE WORLD'S CAPITALS WOULD NOT BE WIDE  
ENOUGH TO COPE WITH THE WELL ORGANISED DEMON-  
STRATIONS WHICH WOULD "SPONTANEOUSLY" BREAK OUT  
PROTESTING AGAINST NEO-COLONIALISM AND THE LIKE.  
INSTEAD OF DEMONSTRATIONS, HOWEVER, WE WITNESS  
NOTHING BUT APPARENT APATHY AMONG THE NON-  
COMMUNIST POWERS.

RUSSIANS AND CUBANS WILL CLAIM THEY ARE THERE  
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BY INVITATION. BUT WHO ISSUED THE INVITATION,  
IF IT WAS ISSUED AT ALL? NOTHING MORE THAN A  
JUNTA OF BLOOD-THIRSTY MARXIST OFFICERS, WHO  
SEIZED POWER AND WHO HAVE MAINTAINED THEIR  
POWER THROUGH A SERIES OF MASSACRES. THEY ARE  
NOT SPEAKING FOR THE ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE, WHO  
SHOWED THEIR OWN FEELINGS WHEN THEY INDICATED

A MARKED RELUCTANCE TO GO TO WAR AT ALL. HENCE,  
THE PRESENCE OF OUTSIDERS.

AMERICA'S SILENCE ON THE SUBJECT COULD WELL BE DUE  
TO AN INGRAINED FEAR IN WASHINGTON THAT ANY KIND  
OF INVOLVEMENT WOULD LEAD TO A GREATER CONFRONTA-  
TION. NONINVOLVEMENT, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS  
MAKING THOSE AFRICAN AND ARAB STATES WHO LOOK  
TO THE U.S. AS A BALANCING FORCE AGAINST THE  
SOVIET UNION WONDER ABOUT THEIR PRESENT POLICIES.  
THE REASONS FOR THE WAR AND THE PLACES IT IS BEING  
FOUGHT IN ARE RELATIVELY OBSCURE - BUT THERE IS  
NOTHING OBSCURE ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE  
REST OF THE WORLD IF RUSSIANS AND CUBANS CAN  
INTERVENE UNCHECKED WHEREVER THEY SEE AN  
ADVANTAGE FOR THEMSELVES. KRENE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, TEXT, BOUNDARY CLAIMS  
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